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AKIRA

KATSUHIRO OTOMO



AKIRA BOOK FIVE

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**BOOK
FIVE**



DARK HORSE COMICS®

THE STORY SO FAR

21st century Neo-Tokyo stands on the ashes of Tokyo, destroyed four decades earlier by the mind of a child — the mind of Akira. Subject of a military project gone horribly wrong, Akira was placed in cryogenic hibernation after the holocaust until his infinite powers could be harnessed. The other survivors of "The Project," formidable psychics withering away in children's bodies, knew that one day Akira will awaken.

Enter Tetsuo, an angry young member of a motorcycle gang led by his friend Kaneda. A violent accident sets off within Tetsuo dormant psychokinetic abilities that grow rapidly, as do a raging headache and a virulent madness. Tetsuo soon explodes in a psychic killing spree against friend and foe, turning Kaneda from blood-brother to mortal enemy. Tetsuo has not gone unnoticed by The Project's leader, the mysterious Colonel, who uses a super-drug to quell Tetsuo's agony while stimulating his powers and bringing Tetsuo under his thrall. But Tetsuo soon grows beyond the control of the Colonel and his psychics — Takashi, Masaru, and Kyoko — and Tetsuo's discovery of Akira's existence fomented within him the urge to confront the child super-being.

A vengeful Kaneda allies with a resistance group, including the beautiful Kei and her partner Ryu, in an attempt to kill Tetsuo and infiltrate the secret subterranean lab that houses the sleeping Akira. They enter the facility and find Tetsuo in combat with the Colonel's security forces. Tetsuo's psychic vibrations stir Akira, and the child emerges from his frozen prison. Tetsuo helps the bewildered child to the surface, but the frantic Colonel orders the gigantic laser cannon of the military satellite SOL to fire on Tetsuo and Akira. Tetsuo's arm is shredded, and the two become separated in the mayhem. Tetsuo disappears, but Kaneda and Kei find Akira and take him to safety.

A state of emergency blankets Neo-Tokyo as the population heads for shelter, the streets quarantined by military patrols and Caretaker robot sentries. Kaneda and Kei — along with Chiyoko, a powerful woman of the resistance — bring Akira to a yacht for safekeeping, but the duplicitous resistance leader, Nezu, takes Akira to use as a weapon against the government and orders the three killed. Chiyoko fights their

way to freedom, and they invade Nezu's home and recapture Akira. The Colonel's forces eventually corner Akira, who for the first time in decades sees Masaru, Kyoko, and Takashi. The reunion is cut short by Nezu, who in trying to kill Akira rather than let him fall into government hands, shoots Takashi, whose death triggers Akira's power. A titanic psychic wave surges through Neo-Tokyo, and the citizenry struggle desperately to survive the cataclysm. As the destruction subsides, Akira sits alone at ground zero. A lone figure approaches him through the wreckage. It is Tetsuo!

From the flooded ruins rises the Great Tokyo Empire, a small army of crazed zealots focused around Akira's miracles but under the malefic control of Tetsuo. The Empire seals itself off from the world, but undercover agents from the outside arrive to assess the threat. The Empire plans to neutralize its most immediate enemies, the child psychics and Lady Miyako — an enigmatic religious figure and Project survivor — whose temple is a haven for refugees. Tetsuo begins feeding the super-drug to "volunteers." Most die, but a handful develop the Power and become Empire shock troops. The infiltrators are caught and executed by the new psychics, but one operative, Yamada, evades capture.

Kei, Chiyoko, and Ryu have survived along with Masaru and Kyoko, but Kaneda is nowhere to be found, assumed lost in the holocaust. Deprived of the super-drug, Masaru and Kyoko are incapacitated, and Chiyoko and Kei set out to enlist the aid of Miyako, who gives them the drug and instructs them to return with Masaru and Kyoko. Meanwhile, Ryu observes Yamada's escape and leaves to investigate. He finds the agent and offers his assistance to Yamada, who makes a beeline for Akira's stronghold. With Ryu gone, Empire spies kidnap Masaru and Kyoko. Chiyoko and Kei return to find the children missing, and the two set off after their charges. They catch up to the Empire's soldiers and free Masaru, but Kyoko's captors escape. Kei sets off for the Temple with Masaru while Chiyoko, wounded in battle, goes after Kyoko.

Tetsuo also gives the drug to young women for his pleasure and amusement. They die in agony, all but Kaori, who palms the drug. She becomes Tetsuo's companion and Akira's nanny. Tetsuo has a series of confusing visions, and he realizes his thoughts are being manipulated by Akira. Tetsuo confronts the child, who draws Tetsuo into his mind and teleports him back to his chambers. Tetsuo withdraws in terror, having seen too far into the thoughts of the psychic

colours. He eventually comes to his senses and decides that Miyako might be of some use to him. He takes more drugs, kicking his power to new heights, and transports across space to Miyako's chamber. Miyako gives him the history of the Project and the revelation that the drug is designed to inhibit his psychic development. Only by going cold turkey will he become all he can — perhaps even a match for Akira. He leaves to contemplate his future.

Chiyoko recaptures Kyoko but is trapped and further injured after narrowly escaping one of Tetsuo's newly bred psychics. Facing almost certain capture, the two are rescued by the Colonel, who takes them back to a still-intact facility manned by a scientist stricken with nicotine withdrawal. Kyoko reveals that Masaru is in Miyako's temple, and the Colonel places her inside a Caretaker robot and begins the arduous journey through the rubble to the temple. He takes with him a special miniature targeting device for the super-laser of SOL.

Tetsuo begins his agonizing withdrawal. Tetsuo's lieutenant, upon discovering that Masaru has reached safety in Miyako's shrine, is unable to get through to his anguished master and takes matters into his own hands by organizing an assault on the temple. Many innocent refugees and monks are killed, but the attack is eventually repelled, partially by the psychic skills of the temple's priests and finally by Kei taking Tetsuo's lieutenant hostage. She eventually lets him go, but he vows to return.

Tetsuo appears to Ryu and Yamada and tells them that he has seen the American fleet not far from shore, ready to attack, but unwilling to get too close due to the power of Akira. Yamada tries to shoot Tetsuo, who easily stops him, and then he disappears as quickly as he appeared.

As the Colonel nears the Temple, a second attack by the Empire begins. Cornered, the Colonel prepares to unleash the power of SOL. Kei, Masaru, Miyako, and her monks retreat to the citadel of the temple as a final stronghold. At that moment, Tetsuo appears, half-mad with pain, demanding drugs from Miyako. As the superlaser of SOL ignites, Tetsuo rises howling into the air, unleashing his power and tossing wrecked skyscrapers about like so many toys. But Tetsuo goes on, transcending time and space, reliving his birth, and eventually arriving at Akira. Tetsuo falls to his knees before his master.

And in the vast wasteland of ruined Neo-Tokyo, Kaneda suddenly appears...



KANEDA



TETSUO



KEI



RYU



THE COLONEL



MASARU



KYOKO



TETSUO'S AIDE



CHIYOKO



LADY MIYAKO



KAORI



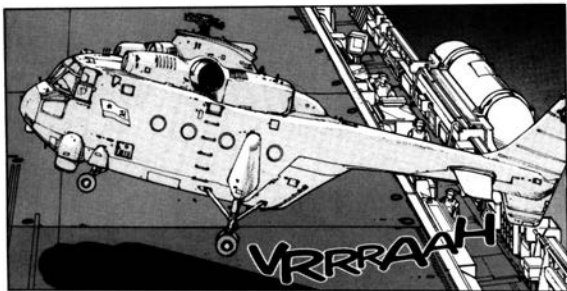
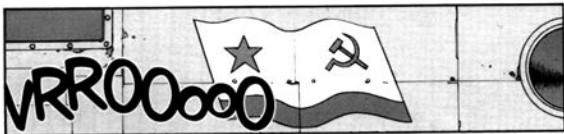
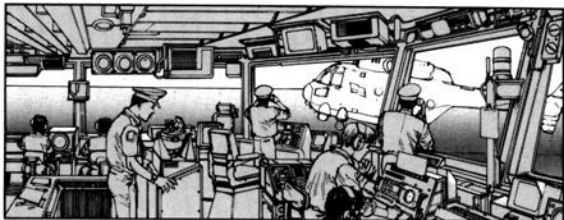
AKIRA

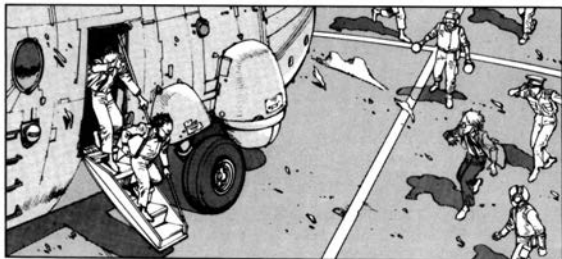


AKIRA



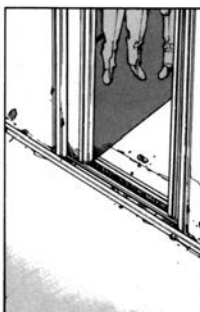
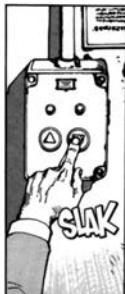


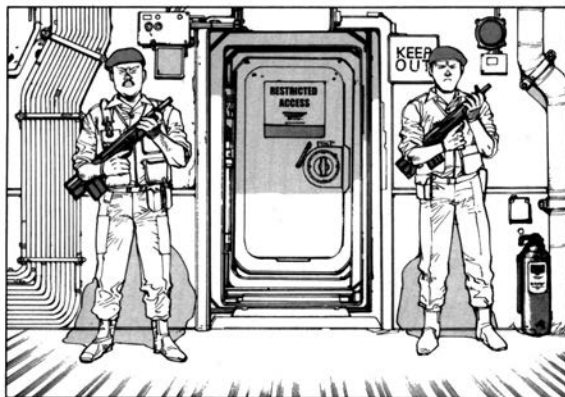






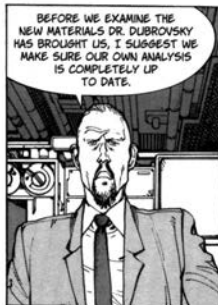


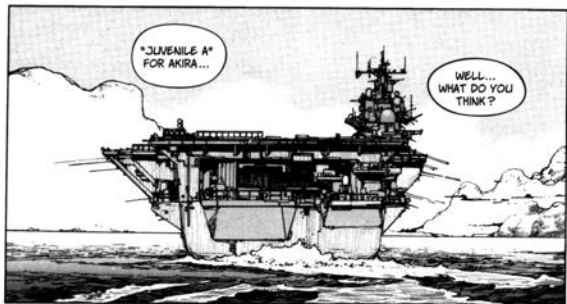




















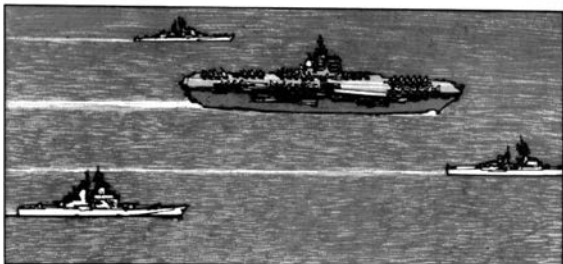


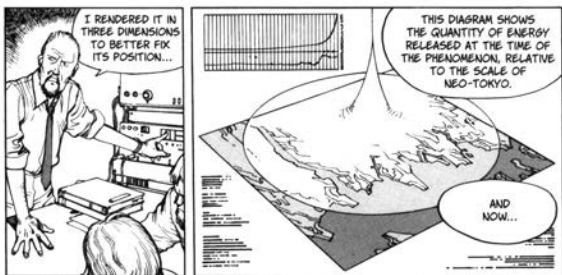


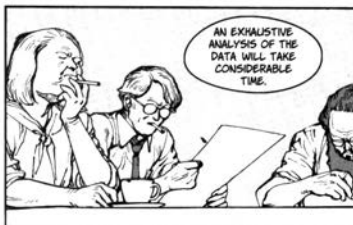
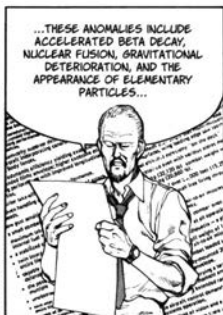


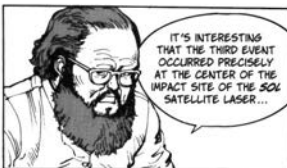
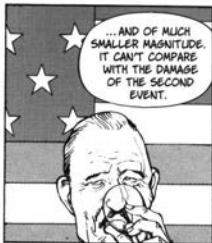
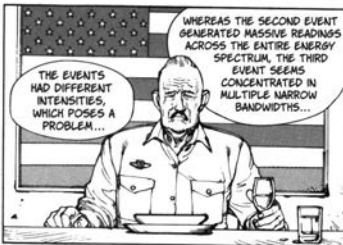




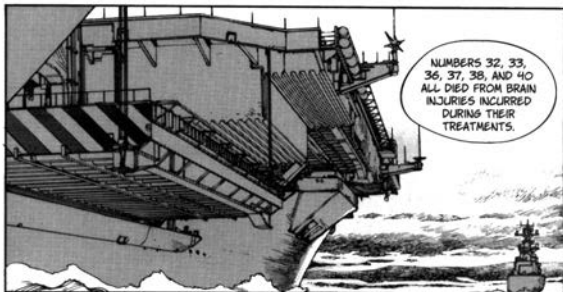












NUMBERS 32, 33,
36, 37, 38, AND 40
ALL DIED FROM BRAIN
INJURIES INCURRED
DURING THEIR
TREATMENTS.



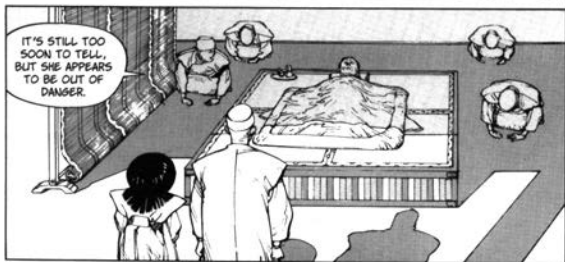
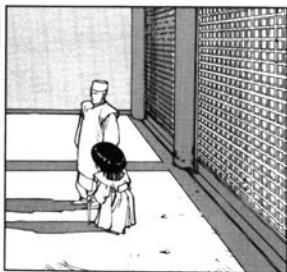
...NUMBERS 34, 35,
AND 39 WERE STILL IN
THE SECRET LAB AT THE
TIME OF THE SECOND
PHENOMENON. WITH
THE COLLAPSE OF
NEO-TOKYO, THEY ARE
LISTED AS MISSING.



NUMBER
41 IS REPORTED
TO HAVE ESCAPED
ON APRIL 16,
2030...

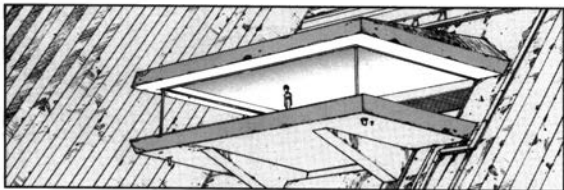


...THE SAME DAY THE
SOL LASER CANNON WAS
FIRED AT THE COMPLEX
WHERE AKIRA WAS
BEING HELD.

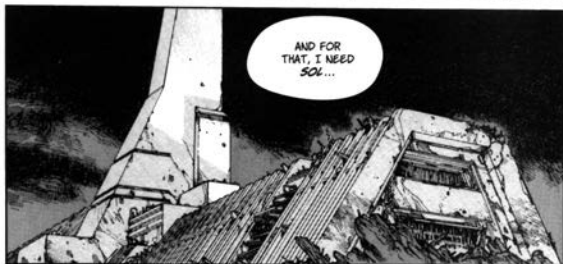
















...THEN THEY
SET UP THE
GREAT TOKYO
EMPIRE.

HE STRUTS
AROUND LIKE
HE'S THE
KING.



WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE KID--
AKIRA?



NOW THAT YOU
MENTION IT...HE'S
THE ONE SUP-
POSEDLY IN
CHARGE...

...BUT NO
ONE KNOWS
MUCH ABOUT
HIM.

zip



THOSE
EMPIRE GUYS
WORSHIP HIM...
CALL HIM
"LORD"...

ME, I THINK HE'S
JUST A FIGUREHEAD.
HE APPEARS TO RUN
HIS EMPIRE WITHOUT
SAYING A WORD...



...BUT
ALL THE
TIME...

...IT'S
TETSUO
GIVING THE
ORDERS.



SHIT...
TO THINK HE
SURVIVED ALL
THAT.

REALLY TEARING
THE PLACE UP, AREN'T
YOU, TETSUO? FOR A
FUCKER WHO SHOULD
BE DEAD BY NOW...







HEY!
WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

AWAY FROM
THE TEMPLE.
FOLLOW ME.



TELL ME, WHO
IS THIS MIYAKO,
ANYWAY?



FOUNDER OF HER
OWN CHURCH... A
LITTLE GODDESS,
SORT OF...



SHE TAKES IN
EVERYBODY--THE
POOR, THE SICK,
ANYBODY IN
NEED.



THE REST COME
THINKING SHE'LL
SOLVE ALL THEIR
PROBLEMS. PEOPLE
GO THROUGH HELL
JUST TO COME HERE
AND BEG. IT MAKES
ME WANNA
PUKE...









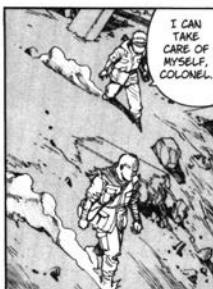


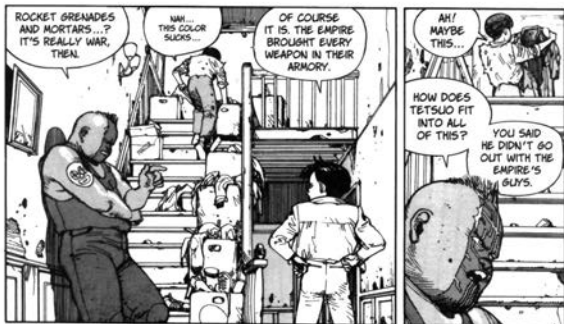
...BUT NOW, GUYS LIKE US HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER, Y'KNOW?

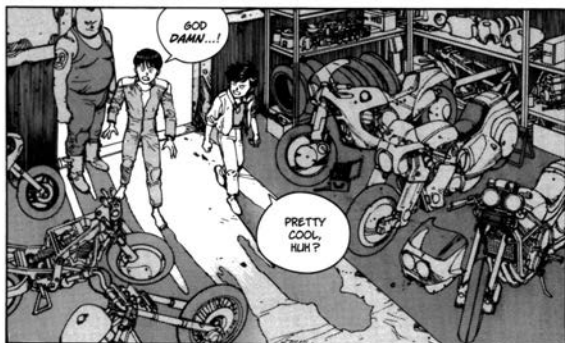


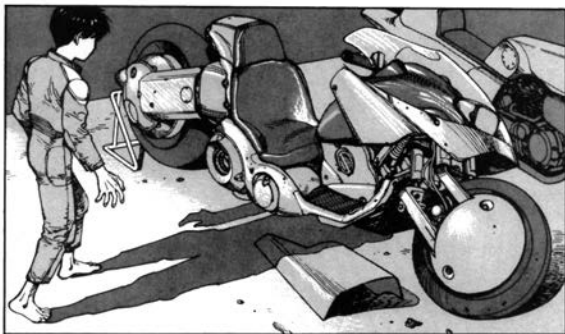


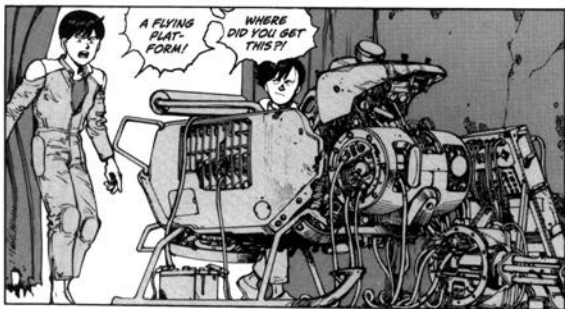


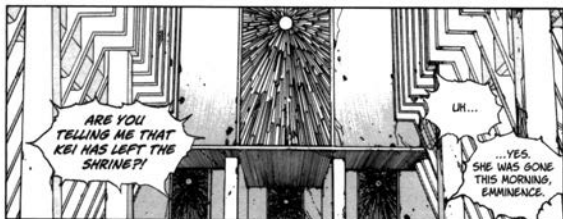




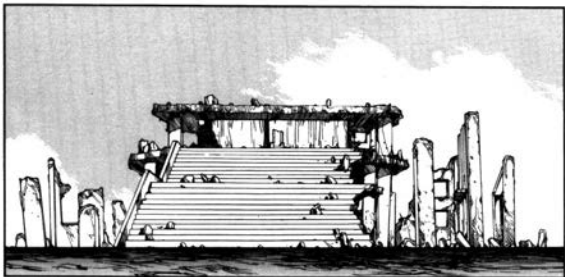
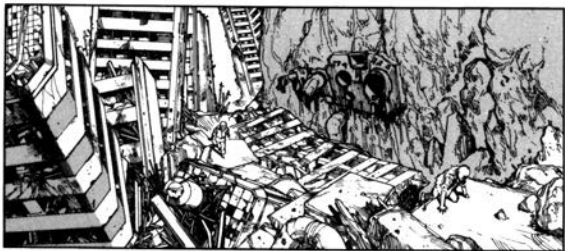


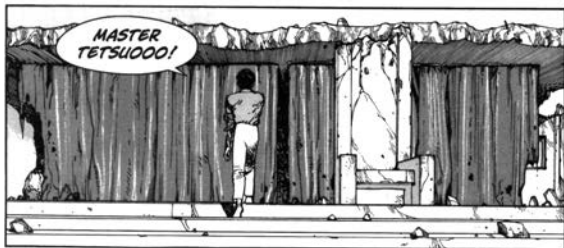
















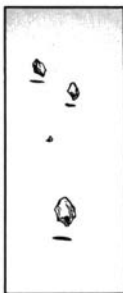
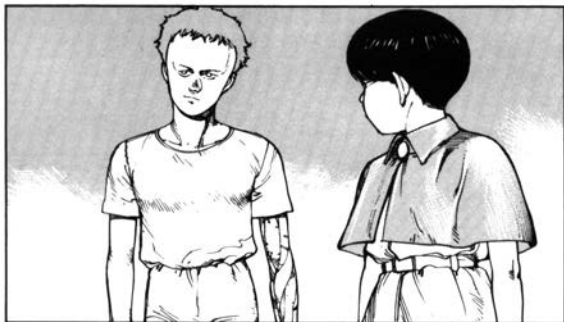






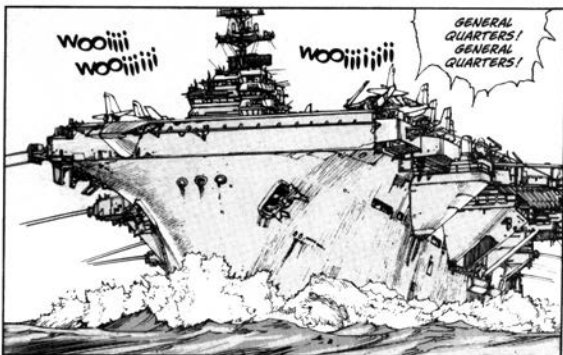


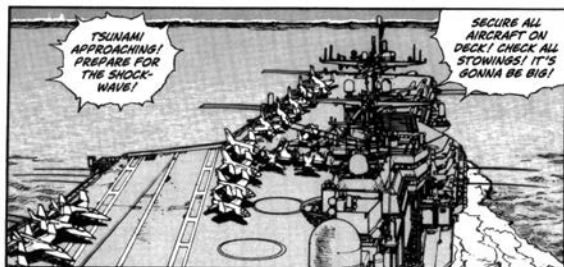




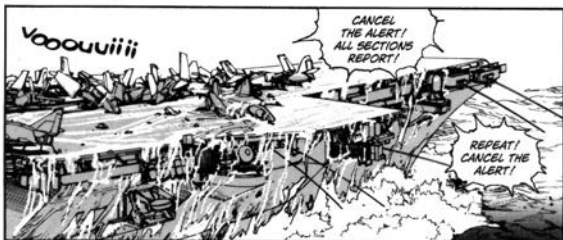






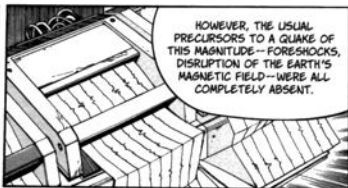








THE EPICENTER WAS 300 KILOMETERS BELOW NEO-TOKYO'S SURFACE. SHOCKWAVES MEASURE 8.5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE-- A MAMMOTH QUAKE!



HOWEVER, THE USUAL PRECURSORS TO A QUAKE OF THIS MAGNITUDE-- FORESHOCKS, DISRUPTION OF THE EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD-- WERE ALL COMPLETELY ABSENT.



IN FACT, THERE WAS NO TRACE OF INCREASED SEISMOGRAPHIC READINGS AT ANY OF OUR TRACKING STATIONS. THIS WAS NOT THE RESULT OF NATURAL STRESSES DUE TO PLATE TECTONICS, BUT THE RESULT OF HUMAN INTERVENTION OR... AN EXTERNAL POWER....



JAPAN IS A NATURAL EARTH-QUAKE CENTER. YOU'LL NEED IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE TO LINK THIS PHENOMENON TO AKIRA. OTHERWISE, NO ONE WILL LISTEN...



WHAT'S YOUR OPINION, KARMA TANGH?

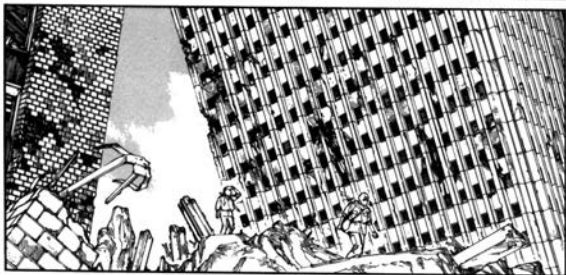


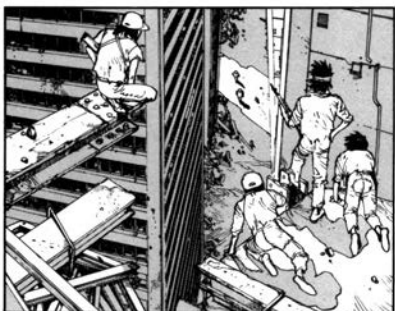
THEY ARE SLEEPING, BOTH OF THEM.

THEY PLAYED HARD, AND NOW THEY ARE ASLEEP.



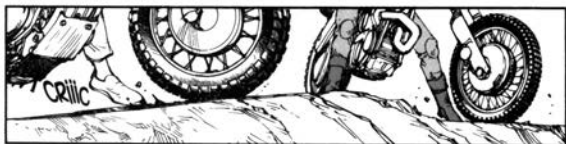












WHAT
A MESS...
LOOKS LIKE
SLOW GOING
AHEAD.

I KNOW A
SHORTCUT...



THIS WAY...
FOLLOW ME!



I HOPE
IT DOESN'T
CAVE IN.

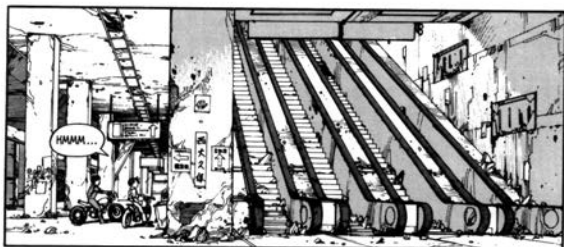
ONLY ONE
WAY TO FIND
OUT.

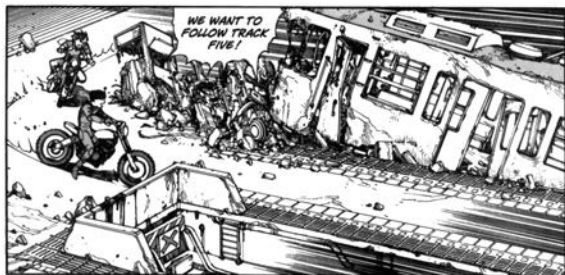


WE'RE
TAKING THE
SUBWAY?

YUP.







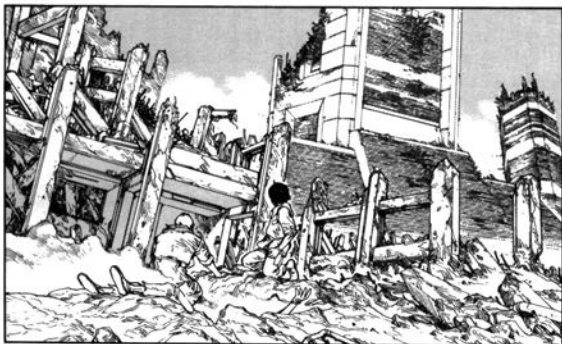




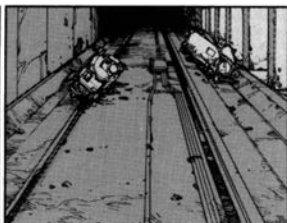






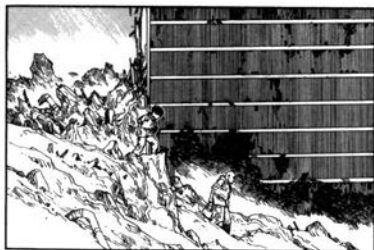
















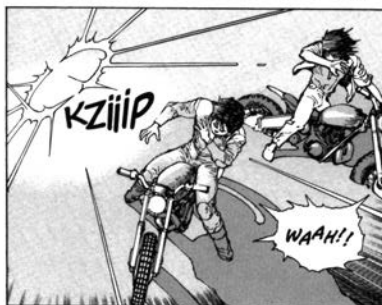








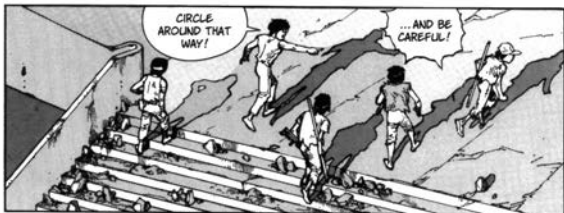


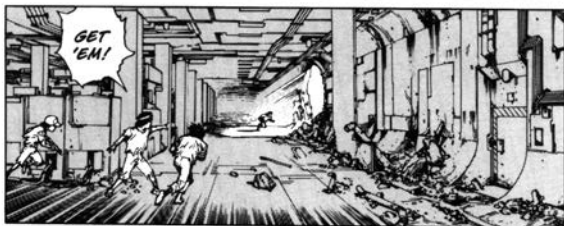
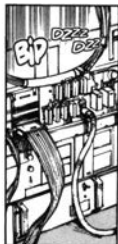














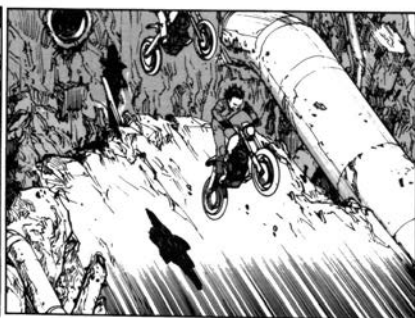


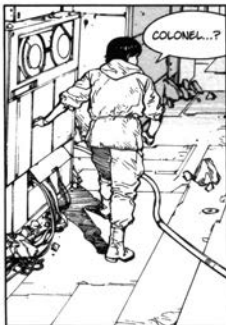


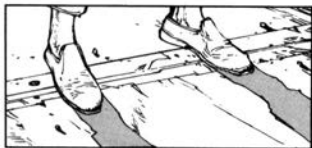








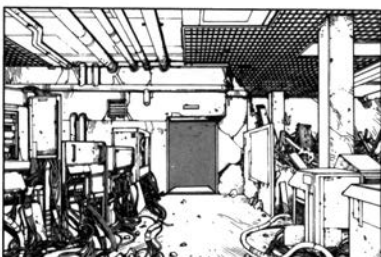














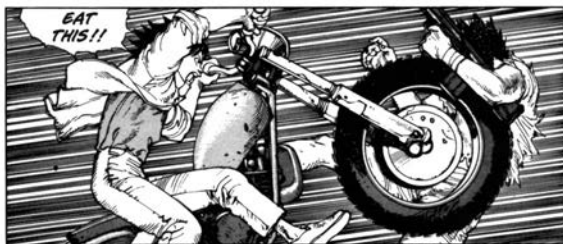












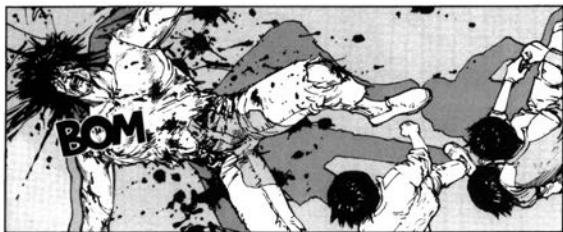


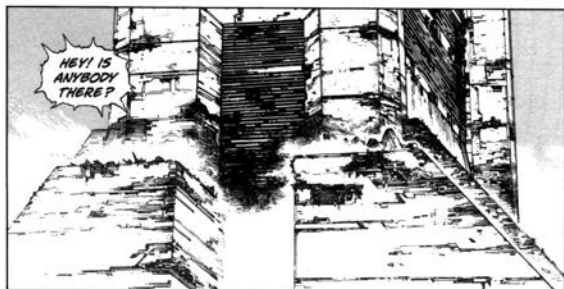


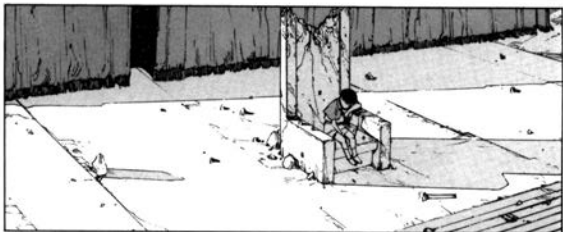
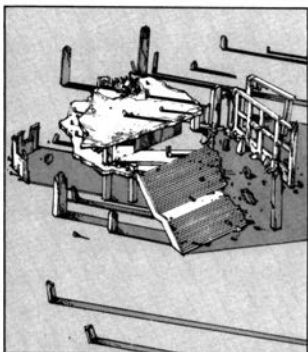


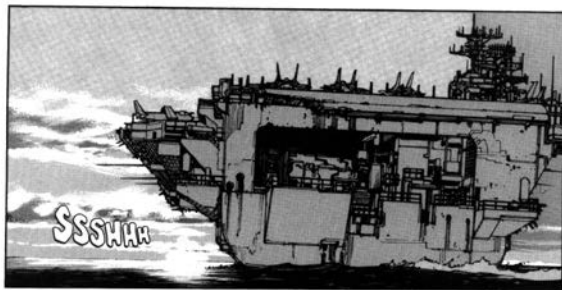








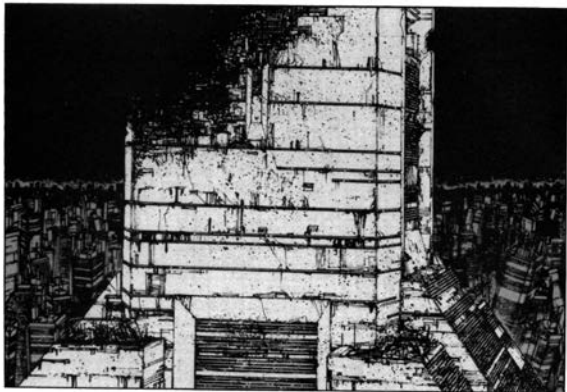




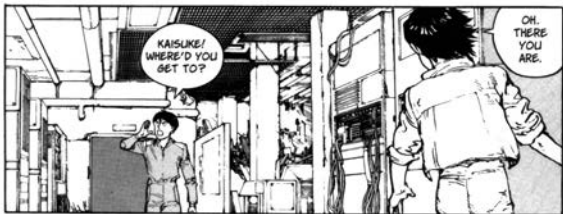




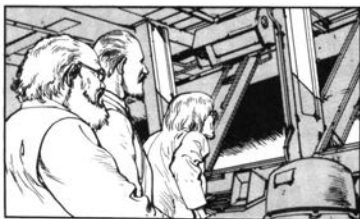


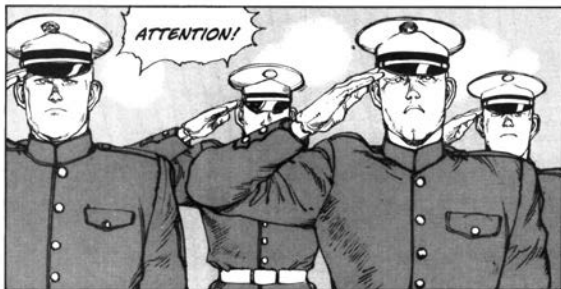


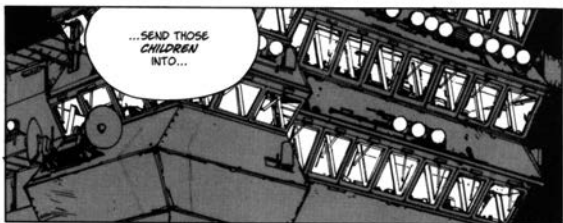


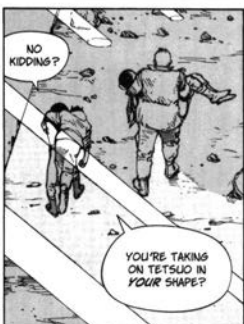


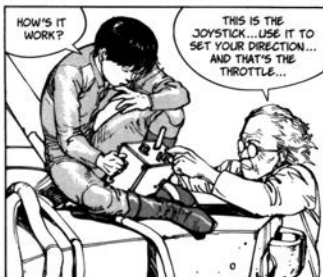




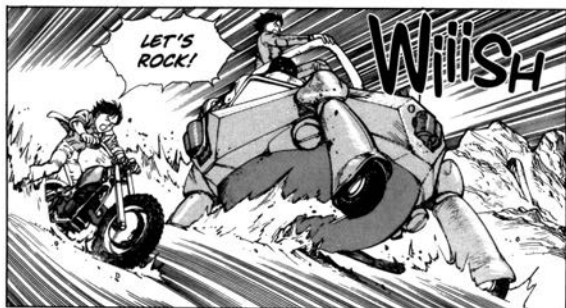














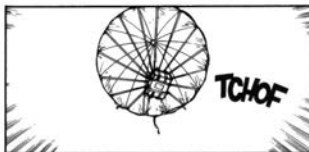


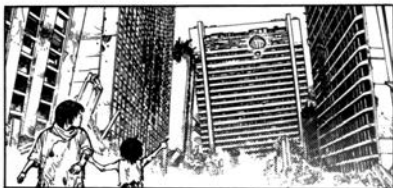














HURRY!
GET IT!



ziiip

GOT
IT!



NOT VERY BIG FOR
A FOOD PACK...

OPEN IT
AND SEE...!



STAY BACK!
DON'T TRY TO
OPEN IT!



MORE
THAN JUST
RATIONS,
HUNK?



...YOU!



KSHAK



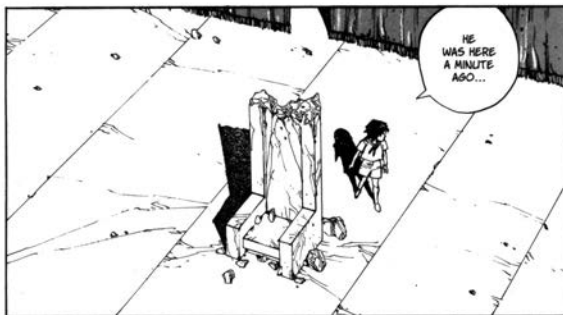
IT'S RIGGED
TO EXPLODE IF
YOU FORCE IT.

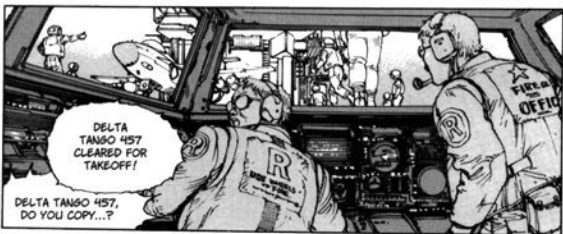
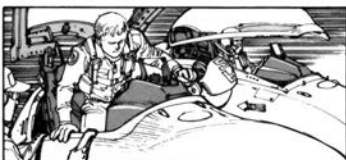
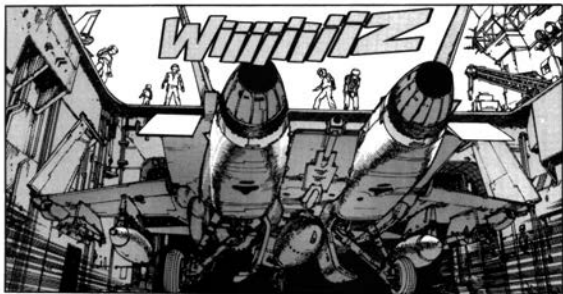


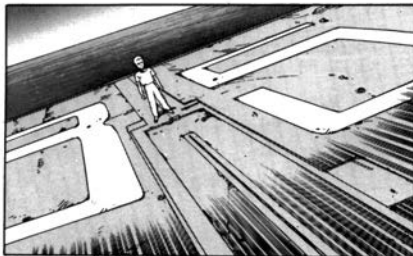
YOU KIDS
HEARD THE MAN.
NO FOOD.

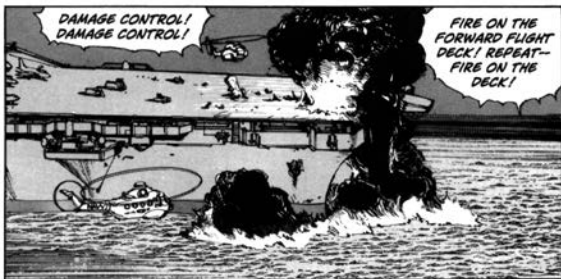
NOW BEAT
IT!



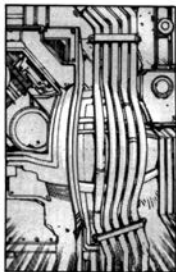




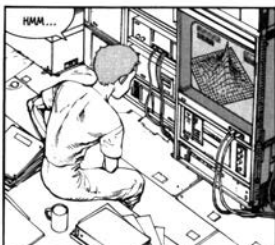
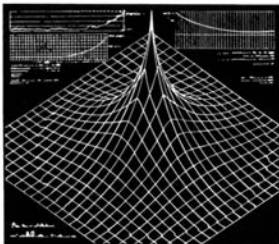










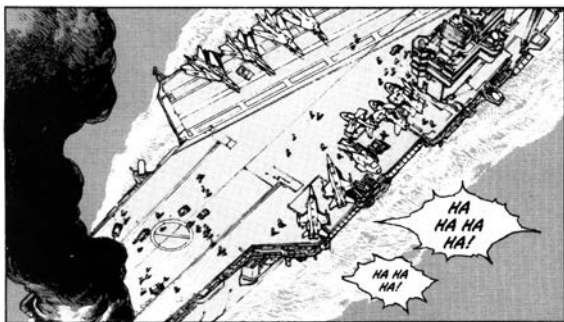


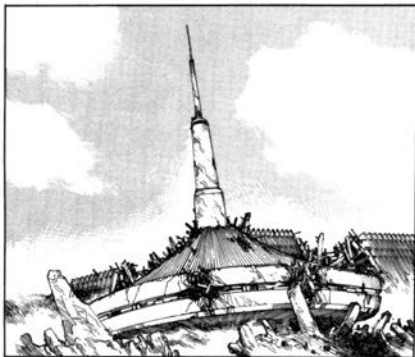






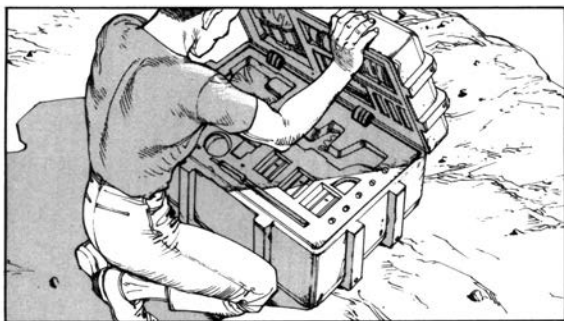


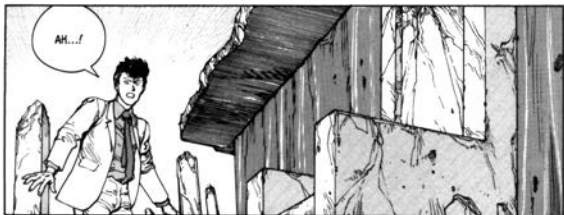
















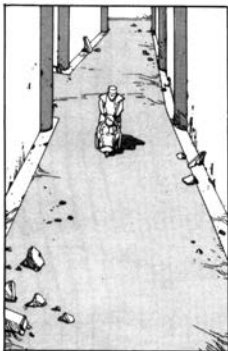




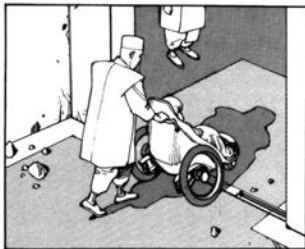


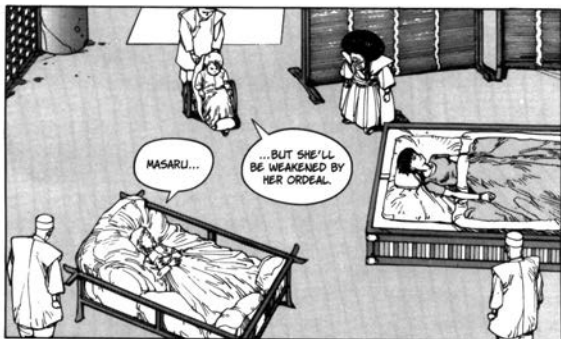




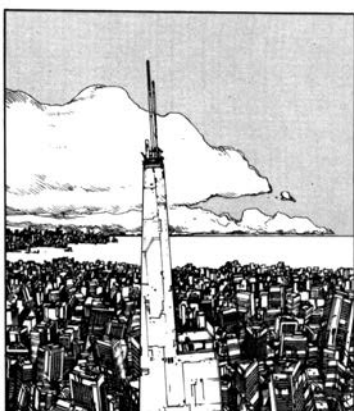














THERE!
THAT CAN'T
BE MISSED...



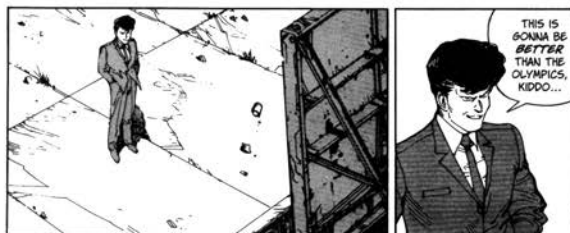
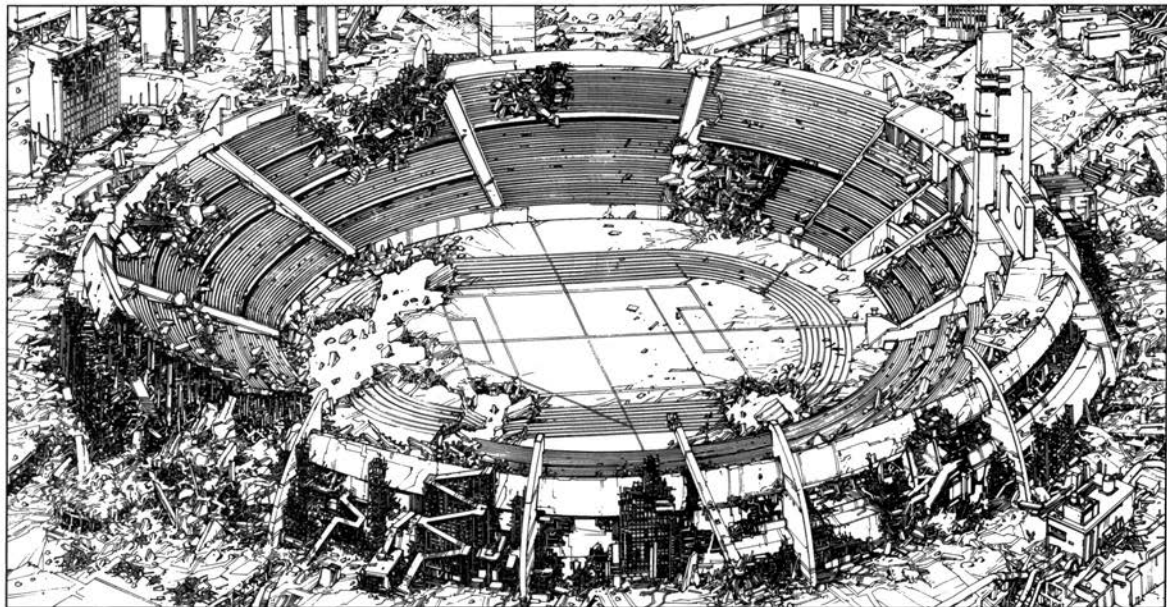
THERE'S A
WALL ON FIFTH
STREET WE CAN
DO NEXT.



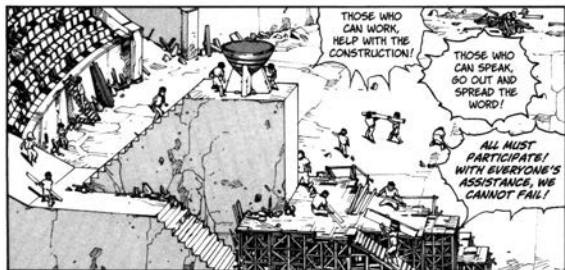
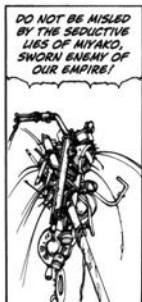
OKAY,
COME ON.

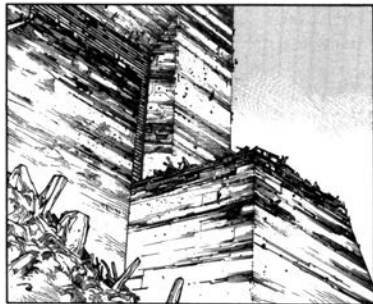
YEAH...THAT'S
GOOD.

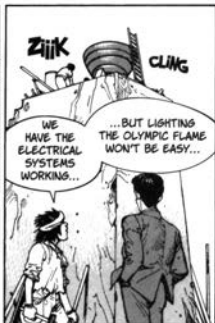
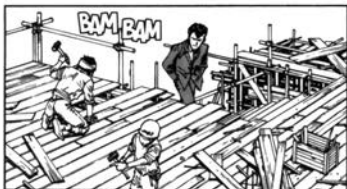
















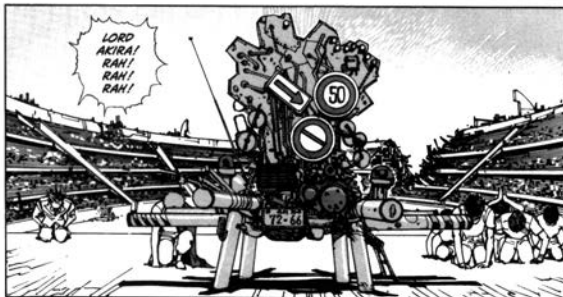




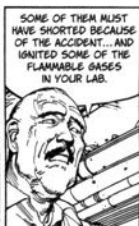


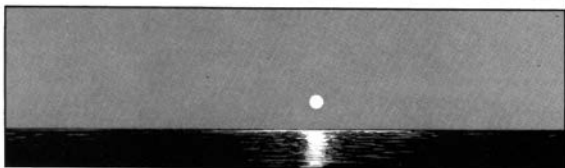
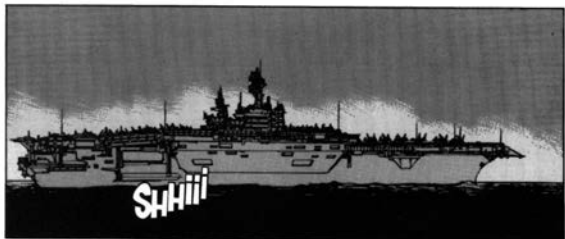
















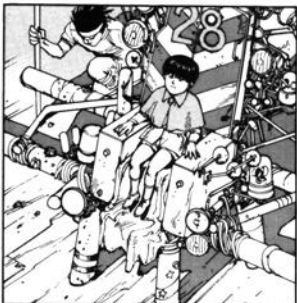


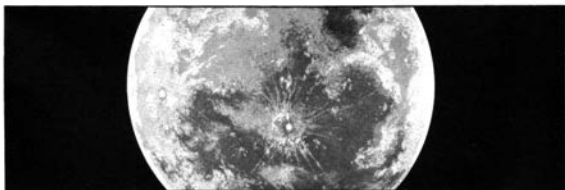
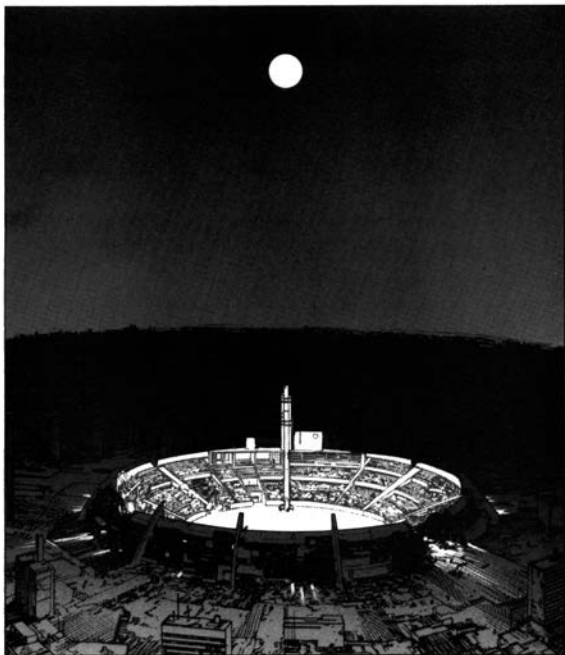




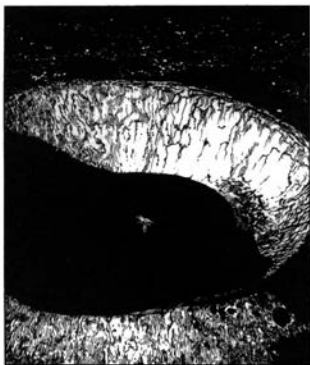
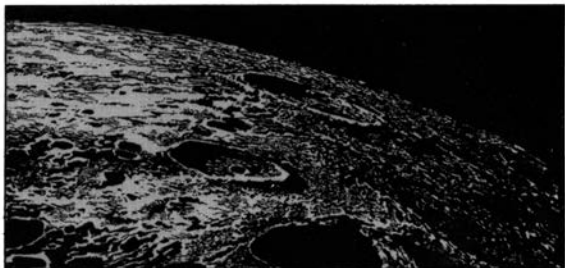


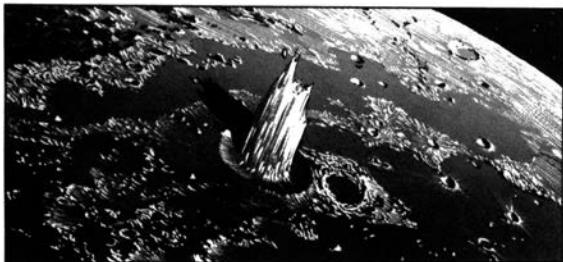
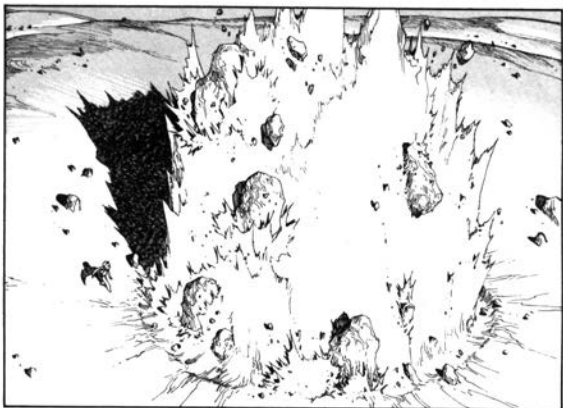


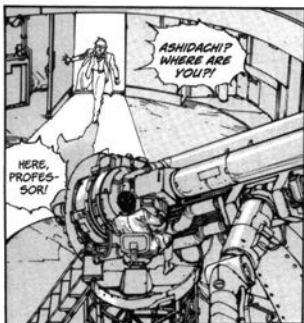


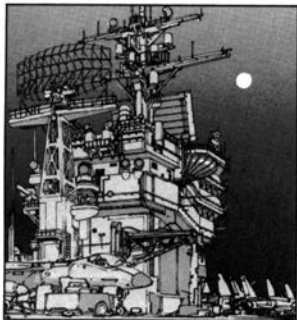


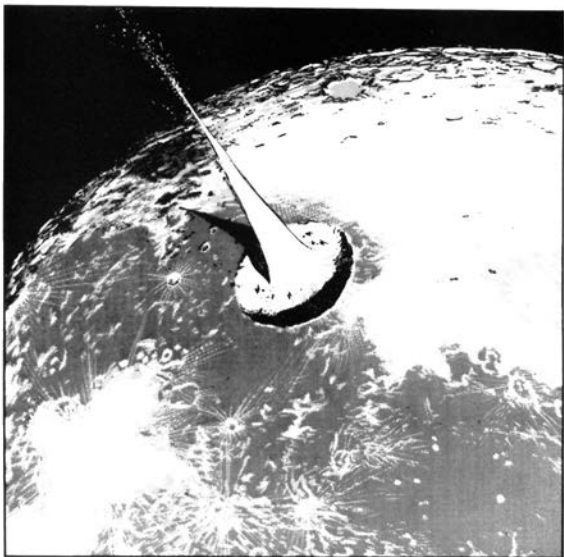


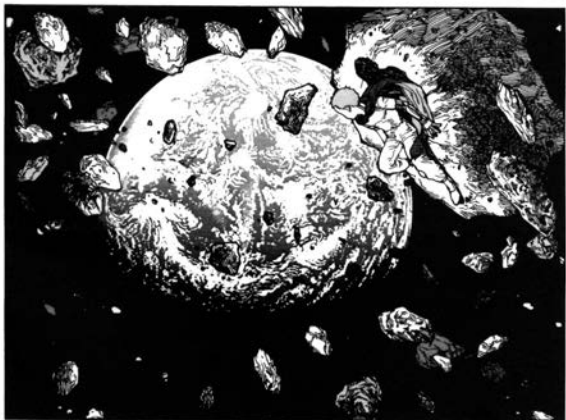
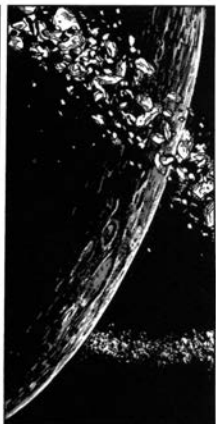
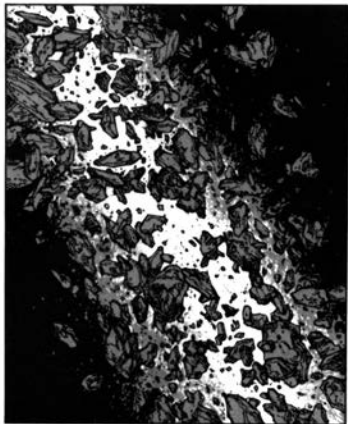


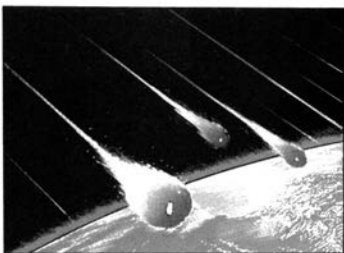
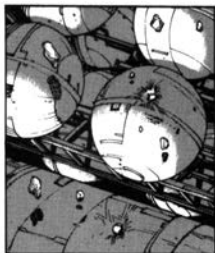
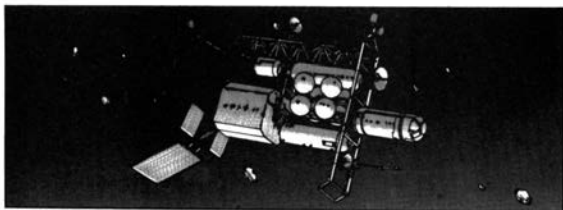




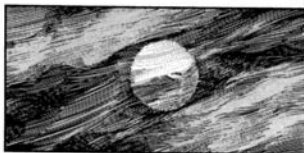


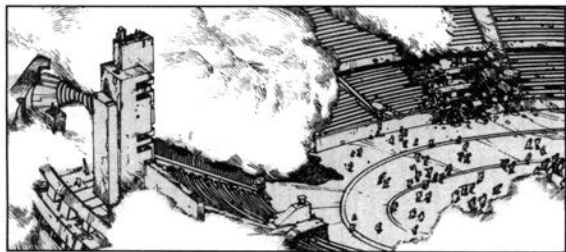








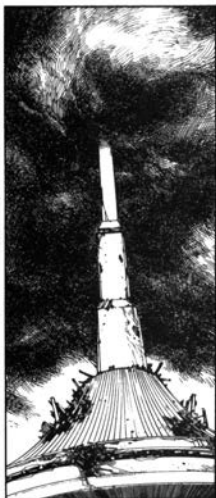
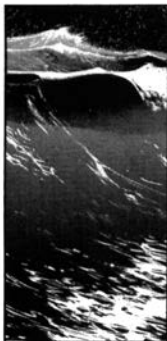




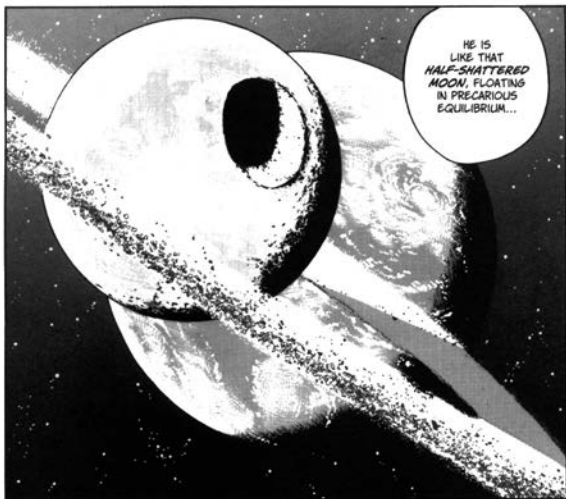




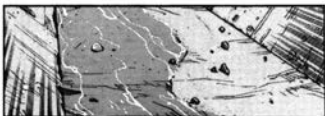














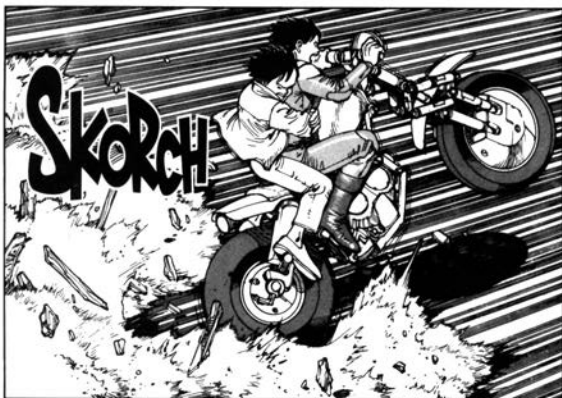








THERE'S NO
WAY WE CAN
MAKE IT RIDING
TOGETHER!



DON'T WORRY,
KAISUKE! I'LL
HONOR YOUR
MEMORY!



I PROMISE I'LL TAKE
CARE OF TETSUO,
SO YOU CAN REST
IN PEACE! NOW
GET OFF!

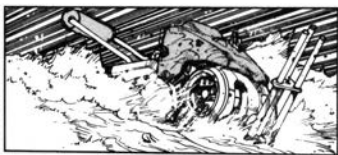
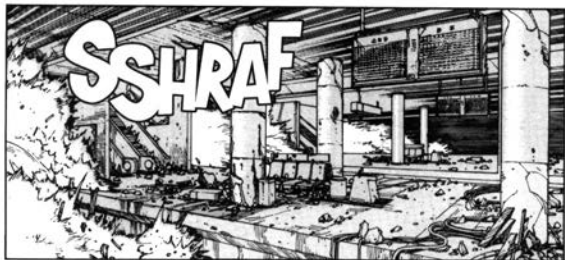


YOU
BASTARD!

HOW CAN
YOU THINK OF
YOURSELF AT
A TIME LIKE
THIS?

GWAARH!

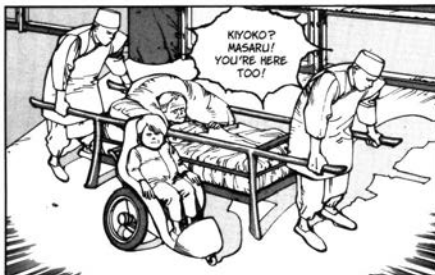










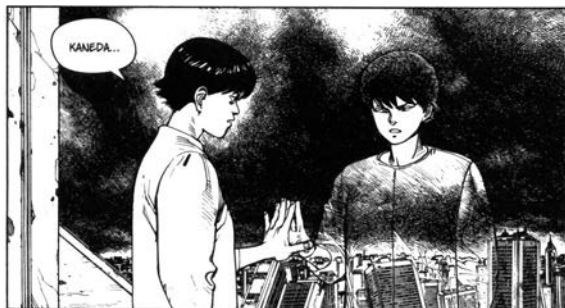
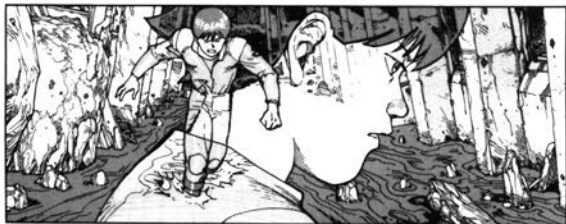






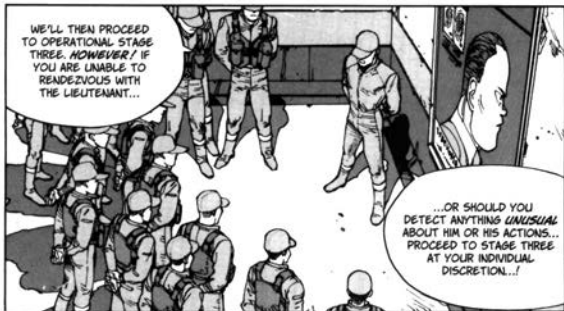








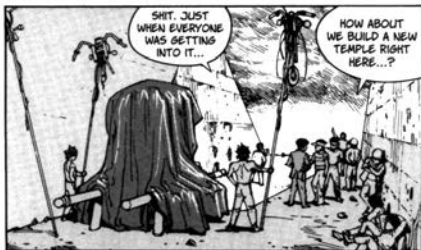








AKIRA







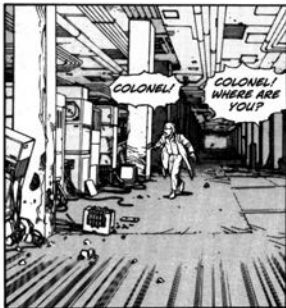




HUHN?
WHAT IS
THIS...?

I'M HALLUCINATING...
**THERE'S A
HOLE IN THE
MOON!**





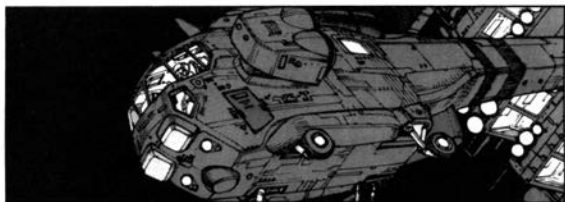
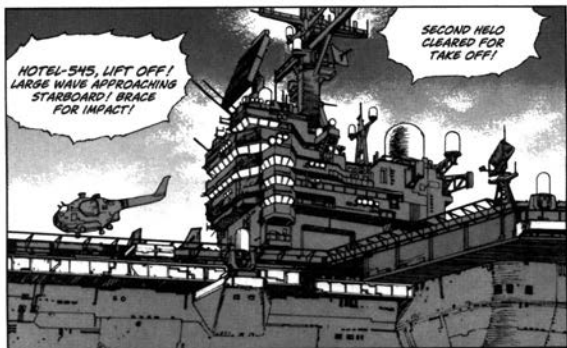
25. 8D, 8B, 8B, 8E, C5, 15, 8D, 8B,
 26. 32, 8D, 1F, 59, C3, 25, 47, FE,
 8E, 8F, 2A, 81, 09, 8B, 8C, C8, 8C,
 8B, 0E, 8A, 8A, 72, FD, 8A, 84, 7D,
 8E, 8F, 08, 27, 8B, 83,
 8A, 81, 83, 44, 81, F6,
 27, 8B, 83, 83, 08, 8A,
 28, 8B, AA, 8E, 27, A3, 2E, 2E,
 89, 41, 81, 8E, 27, A3, 8C, C8,
 8A, 84, 81, 82, 8A, 44, F6,
 28, 8B, 83, 8B, 8E, C1, FF, 8
 8A, 84, 81, 82, F6, 2E, 2E, 8B,
 81, 84, F6, 2E, 24, 08, 83, 08, 8A,
 8A, 77, 84, BF, 28, 08, 09, 0A, 8D
 1, FE, A6, FE, C8, C4, FF, E8, 4C, F
 1E, 28, 27, 08, 83, 08, 8A, 84, 83,
 8B, 8B, 8B, 8B, 8B, 8B, 8B, 8B, 1C, 8C
 8E, 2C, 8E, BF, AA, 83, 09, 82, FC, F2
 1C, 8C, C8, 8E, D8, 8E, C8, 8D, 38, 8D
 58, 8D, 8B, 8B, 8E, 0D, 8A, 14, 8B, 8B
 8B, 8B, 8E, 0D, 8A, 1C, 46, 81, 08, E3
 08, 08, C3, 08, 08, 24, 87, AA, C9, 75
 2C, 89, 36, 38, 08, 1F, 59, C3, 1E, 8C
 2A, 81, 8B, 38, 32, 8B, 08, 3A, 09, 78
 07, 08, E8, 08, 02, 08, E8, 0D, 08, 8
 C8, 8D, 8E, A8, 8E, C5, 26, 8B, 8D, 8E
 25, 8D, 8B, 8E, 8E, C5, 26, 8B, 47, FE
 2E, 32, 8D, 1F, 59, C3, 51, 1E, C8, 8C
 8E, 0F, 2A, 81, 09, 8B, 82, FC, 84, 7D

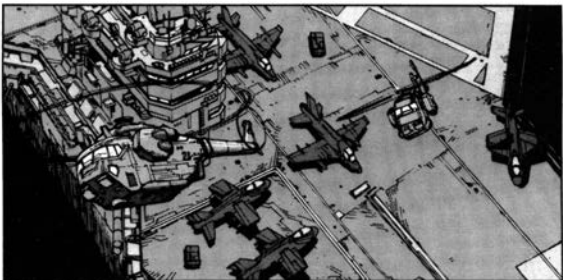
DZZZ
DZZ
DZZiiii

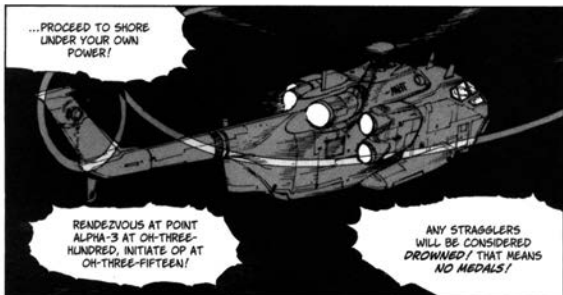








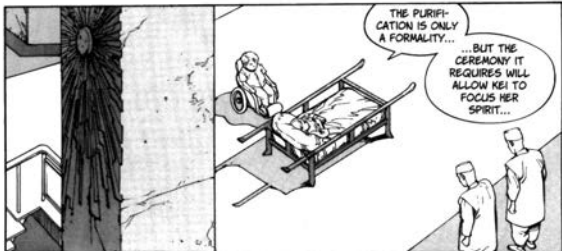








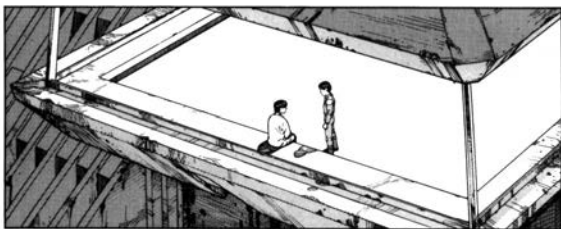








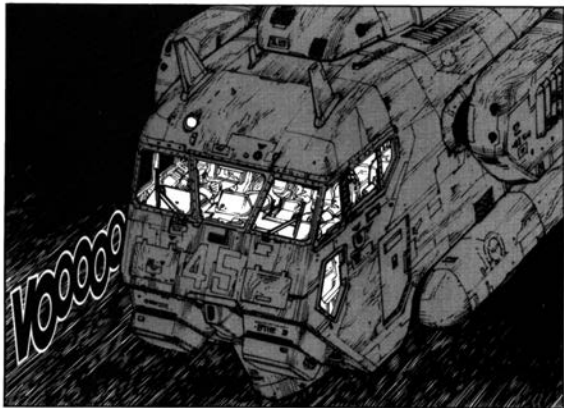


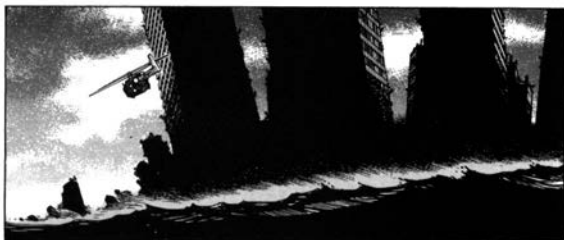
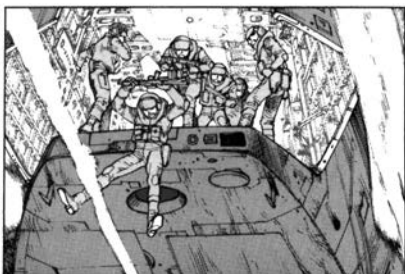














A "MEDIUM"
...?!



WHAT
THE HELL'S
THAT?!



I HAVE...
THAT POWER...



THEY'LL
UNIFY ALL THEIR
POWERS INSIDE
ME, AND...

...FIGHT
TETSUO.



WHAT?!
THAT'S...
CRAZY!!

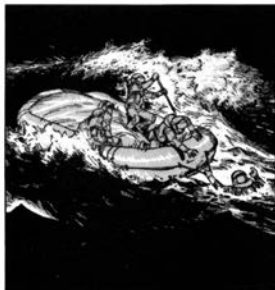
WHAT HAPPENS
TO YOU?!



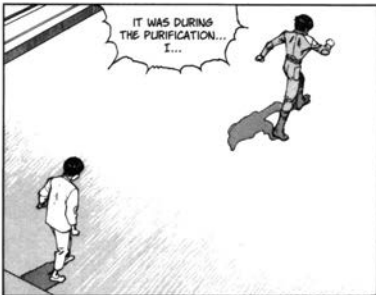
DO YOU
SEE THE
STORM?



TETSUO'S
POWERS ARE
INCREASING
RAPIDLY.

























AND LORD
TETSUO?



ONE GUY HAD
HIS GUTS BURST
OPEN.



ANOTHER
GOT HIS ARMS
BLOWN TO
SHIT.

PLUS WE GOT
MULTIPLE BROKEN
RIBS, BUSTED
LEGS...



AND ONE GUY'S
JUST A SMEAR ON
THE WALL.



THEY'RE
ALL TERRIFIED.
WON'T GET
NEAR HIM.



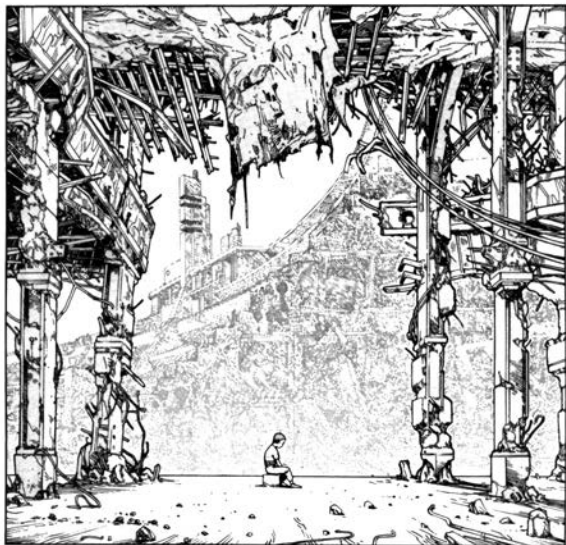
WHAT
THE FUCK
GOT INTO
HIM?!



HE'S GONE
LOCO! LIKE
HE'S LOST
HIS MIND!

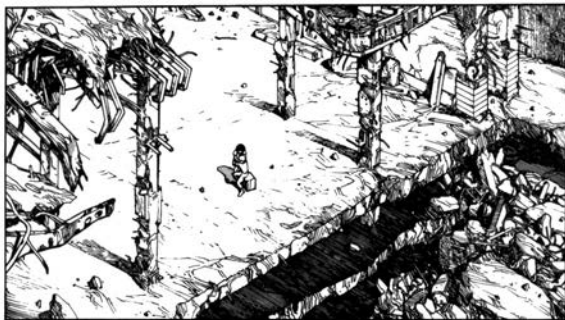










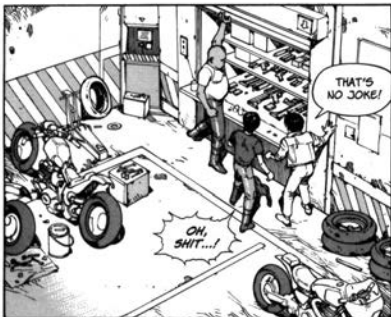
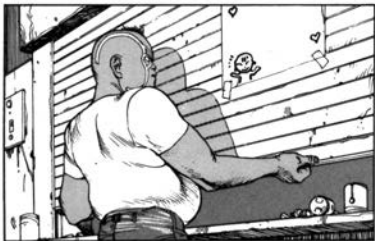






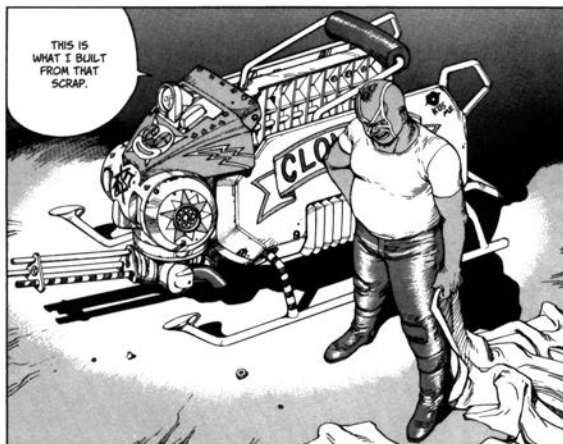




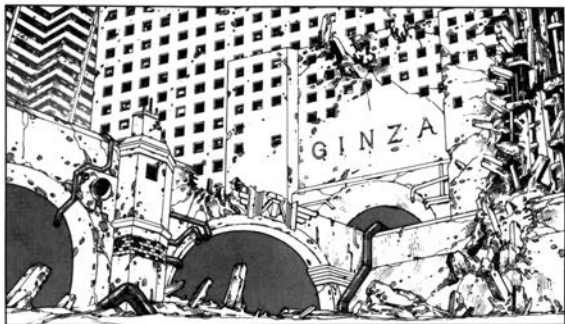




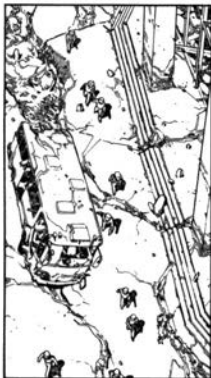
















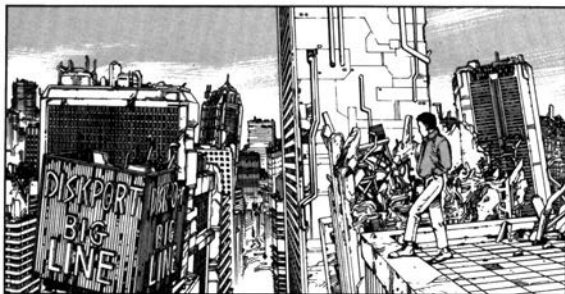




THE REST OF THE
BOY SCOUTS HAVE
ARRIVED...ALMOST
MAKES ME WANT
TO SIGN UP...

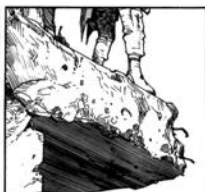


THEY'LL
PROBABLY START
LIGHTING CAMP-
FIRES ANY TIME
NOW...











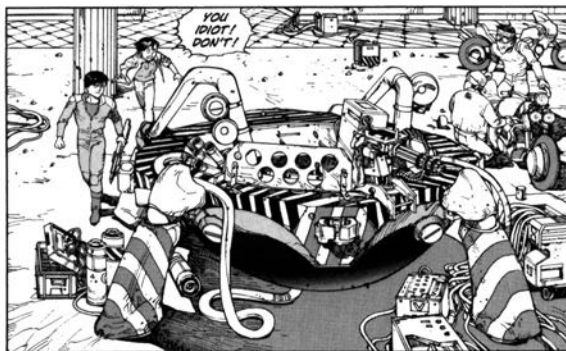




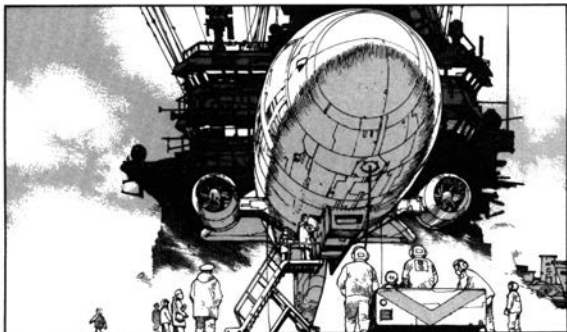














THREE MORE DAYS...TWO MORE DAYS...EXTENSION AFTER EXTENSION, AND NOW, TODAY, YOU *STILL* DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHEN YOU'LL CRACK IT?



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, LIEUTENANT?



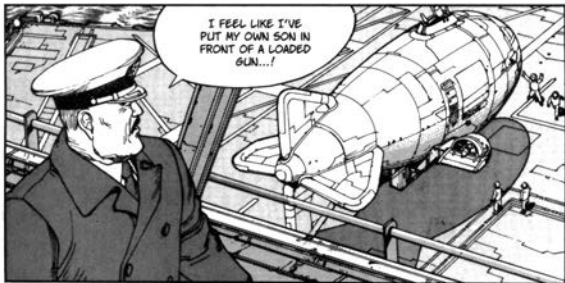
YOU WERE STRUTTING AROUND SAYING YOU'D BREAK THE SECURITY LOCK ON *SOL* IN A WEEK!



BUT SIR...THEY'VE NOTICED WE'RE HACKING IN. THEY'RE SWITCHING CODES LIKE CRAZY!

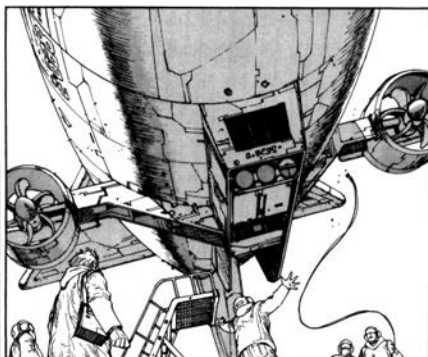


NO EXCUSES!



I FEEL LIKE I'VE PUT MY OWN SON IN FRONT OF A LOADED GUN....!



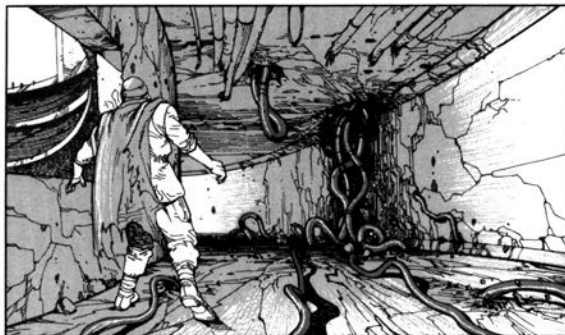










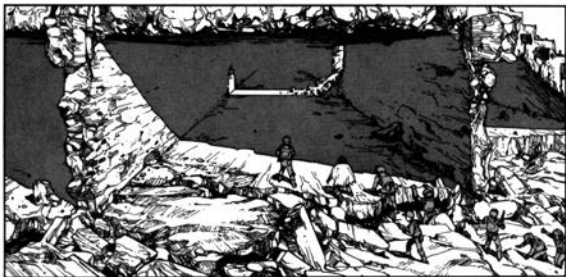
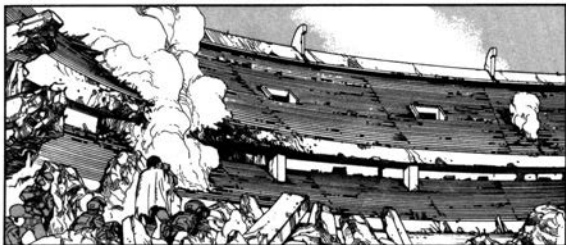


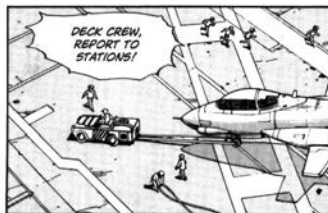
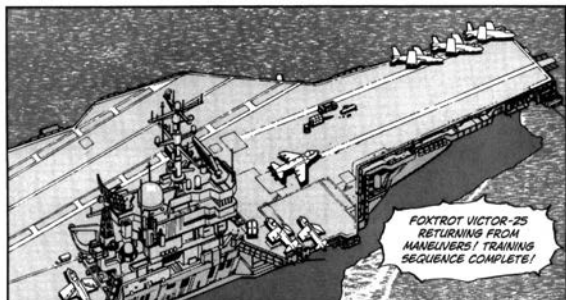




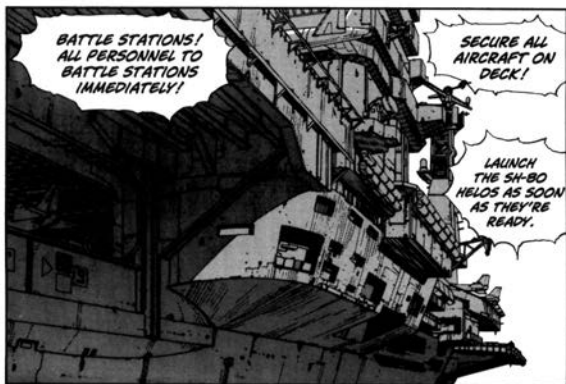


















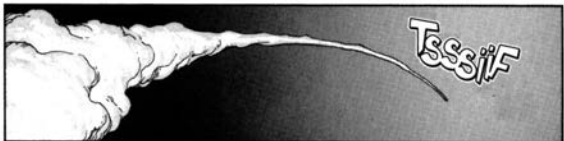
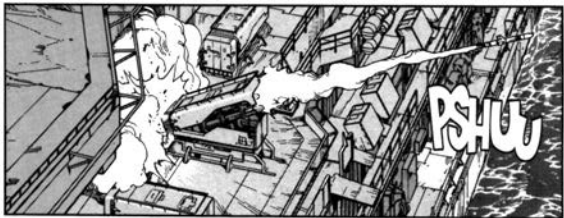
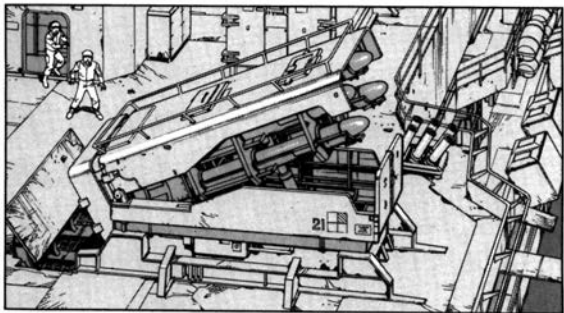


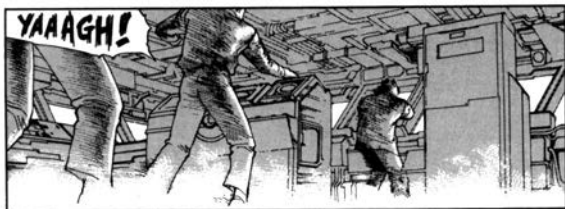


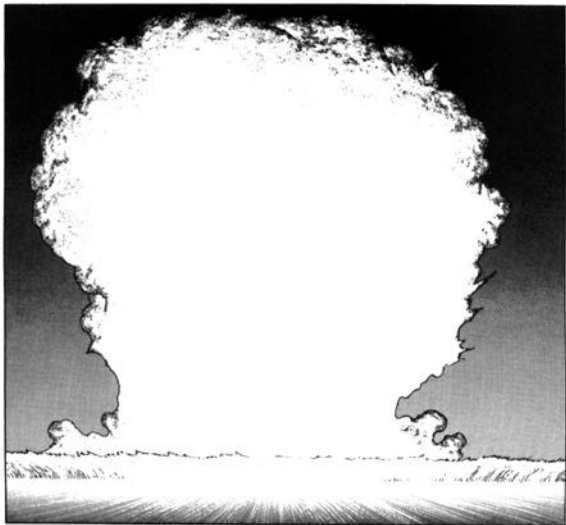




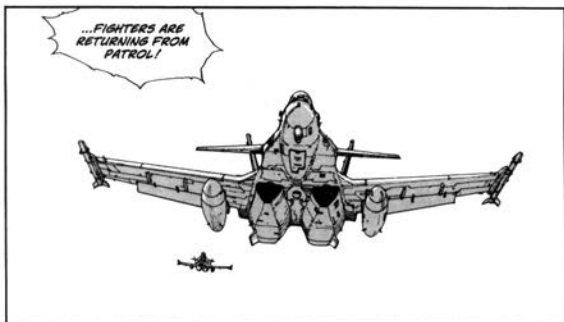


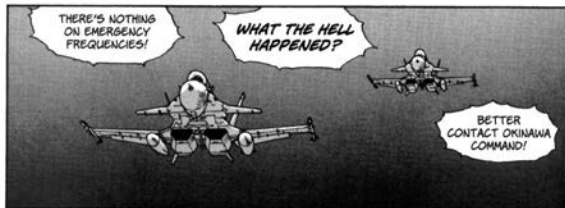
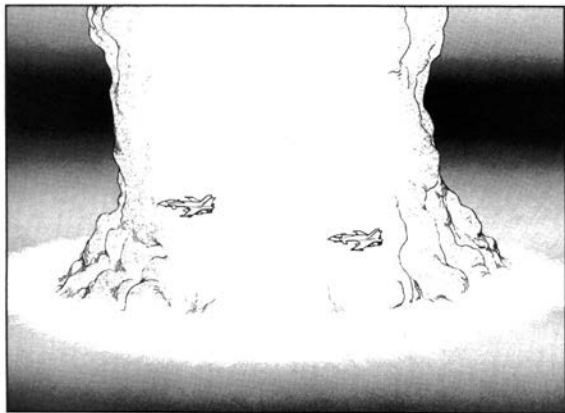


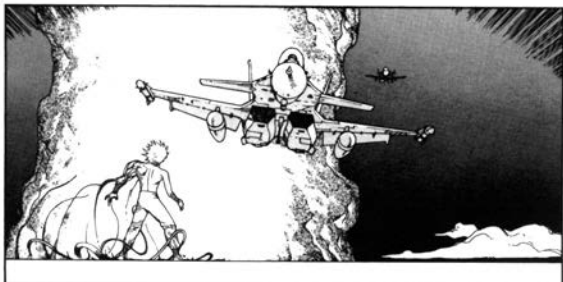


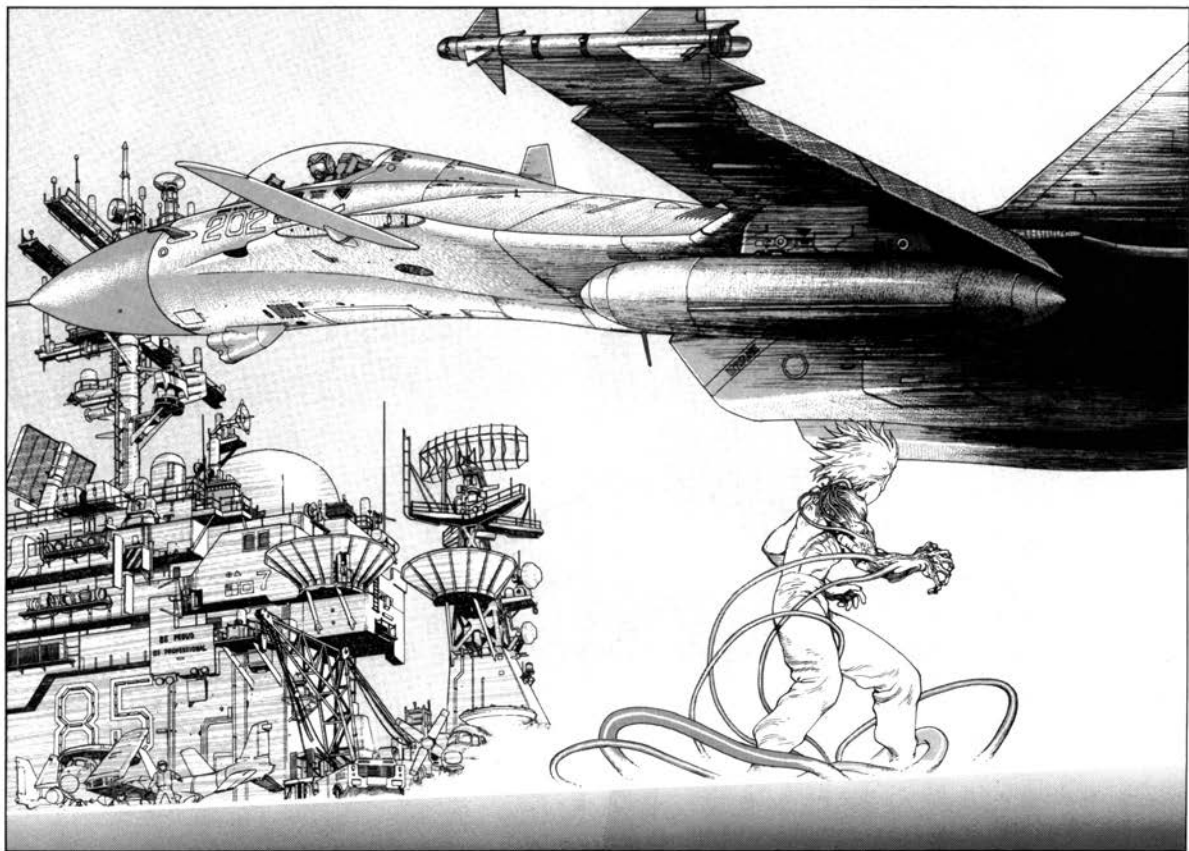


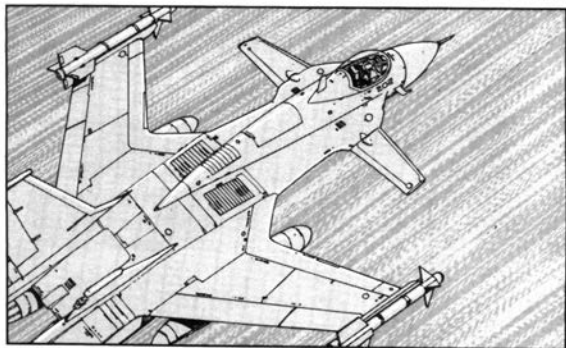




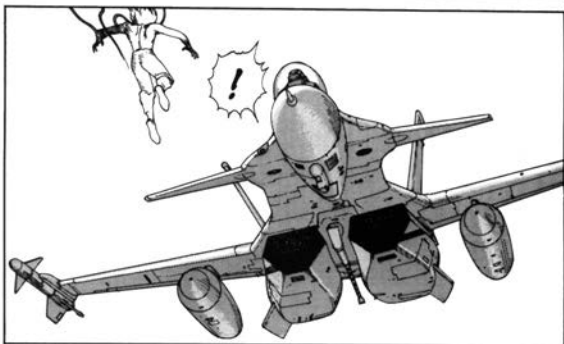
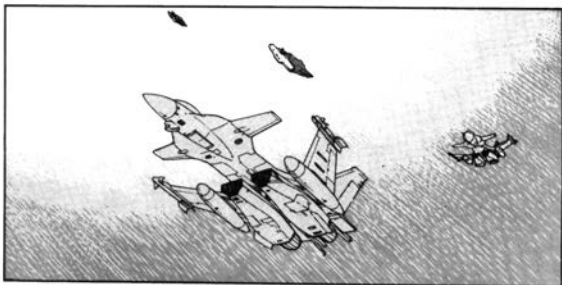


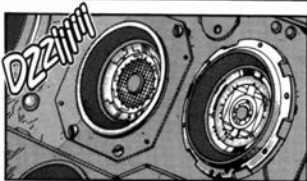


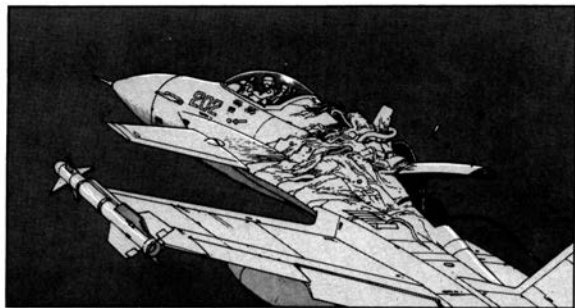






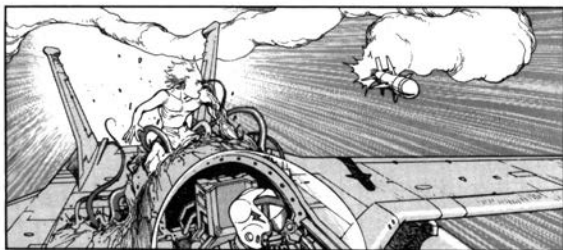
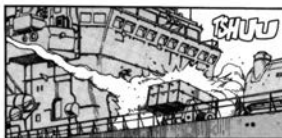
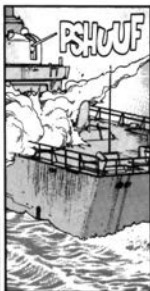


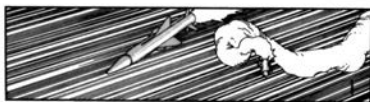
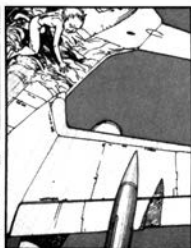


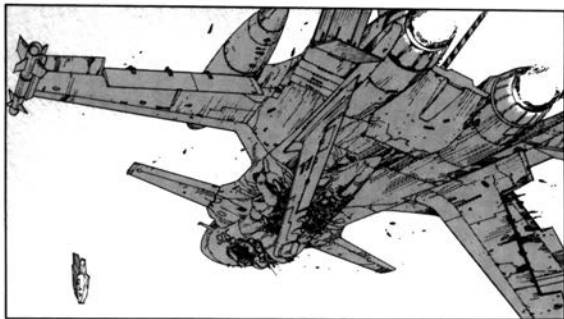








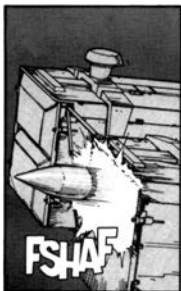


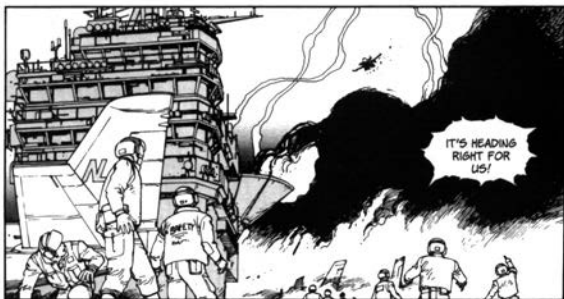




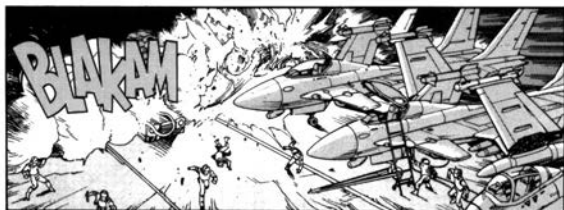




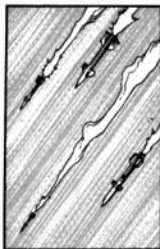




















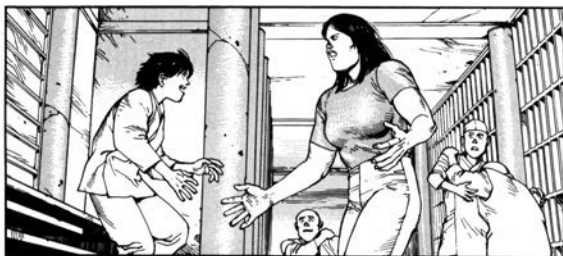




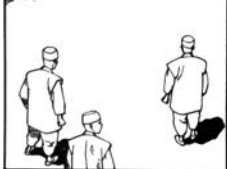








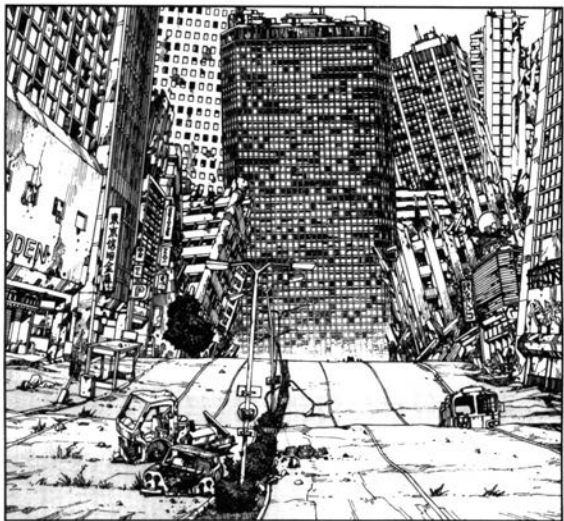


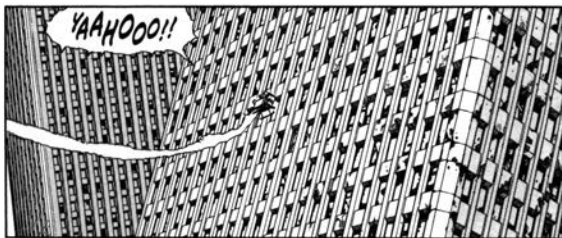


































IN THE 21ST CENTURY,

the once-glittering Neo-Tokyo lies in ruin, leveled in minutes by the infinite power of the child psychic, Akira. From the flooded wasteland of rubble and anarchy, the Great Tokyo Empire rises, populated by a ragtag army of zealots and crazies who worship and fear Akira and his mad prime minister, Tetsuo, an angry teen with immense powers of his own — and equally immense, twisted ambitions. The world at large is not taking the threat lying down, and the military strength of the planet is massing to take on the Empire, but will technology's most advanced weaponry be enough to destroy Akira? And are the rapidly growing paranormal abilities of Tetsuo a potentially greater threat?

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